

CA2ALEPW705
ASL

1984-85 c.v

Sessional Paper No. 97/85

Session, 20 Legislature

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
WILDERNESS AREAS AND ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

APRIL 1/84 TO MARCH 31/85



Office of the Minister

RECREATION AND PARKS

Room 107 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B8 403/427-3672

Her Honour Helen Hunley
Lieutenant-Governor
3rd Floor, Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta

Madam:

I have the honour of transmitting the Second Annual Report
of the Advisory Committee on Wilderness Areas and Ecological
Reserves.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Trynchy
Minister



RECREATION AND PARKS

Standard Life Centre
10405 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T5J 3N4

May 6, 1985

The Honourable Peter Trynchy
Minister of Recreation and Parks
107 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Sir:

I have the honour to present the Second Annual Report of the Advisory Committee on Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. E. Cline".

D. E. Cline
Chairman, Advisory Committee
Wilderness Areas & Ecological Reserves

4 3948

STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN

In this second year of the Advisory Committee's operation, considerable attention has been focussed on the Ecological Reserves Program in Alberta. This has been primarily in response to the proposed Milk River Canyon Ecological Reserve and a public meeting held in Lethbridge during March of 1984. At that meeting a number of issues and concerns were raised. Of particular concern was the effect Ecological Reserves in the area would have on the management and control of access, hunting and grazing. Although the Committee had hoped to pursue establishment of several Ecological Reserves this past year, as a result of the high level of public interest shown in Lethbridge, the Committee focussed its activities on the Milk River site. In dealing with the Milk River site over the last twelve months, the Advisory Committee has gained a greater understanding and appreciation of the varying viewpoints regarding the Ecological Reserves program and is confident that the systematic establishment of Ecological Reserves in Alberta will proceed at a steady rate in the coming years.

I would particularly express the appreciation of the Advisory Committee to the small group of local Albertans who donated their time and effort to provide input to the Committee on principles of management for an ecological reserve in the Milk River grasslands.

D. E. Cline
Chairman

ROLE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee on Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves has been appointed to represent the interests of the general public as they pertain to Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves and to advise the Minister of Recreation and Parks and the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife on matters relevant to those interests. The guiding principle in the operation and deliberation of the Advisory Committee is in reconciling the best interests of the system of Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves with the many interests of the public as a whole.

The Advisory Committee was established pursuant to Section 2 of the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act, 1981. Following is the role of the Advisory Committee as set out in Section 2(7) of the Act:

7(1) The Advisory Committee shall receive and consider requests from the public regarding wilderness areas and ecological reserves and may make recommendations to the Minister regarding:

- a) the establishment of new wilderness areas or ecological reserves;
- b) the addition of lands to wilderness areas or ecological reserves;

- c) withdrawal of lands from wilderness areas or ecological reserves, and
- d) the making of regulations for the administration, management, operation and utilization of wilderness areas, ecological reserves and controlled buffer zones.

The ultimate responsibility for decision-making on all these matters relevant to Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves rests solely with the Minister of Recreation and Parks and the jurisdiction of the Advisory Committee does not include the authority to approve or make decisions.

Advisory Committee Membership

Membership of the Advisory Committee is set out in the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act as follows:

2(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall establish a committee called the "Advisory Committee on Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves" consisting of 12 members and shall designate one of the members as chairman.

(2) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may prescribe the term of office of any member of the Committee and the term of office of the chairman.

(3) The Minister shall designate a member of the Advisory Committee as the Secretary to the Committee.

(4) The Advisory Committee shall consist of

- (a) 2 employees of the Department of Recreation and Parks,
- (b) 3 employees of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources,
- (c) 1 employee of the Department of Culture, and
- (d) 6 persons who are not employed by the Government or a government agency.

Present membership of the Advisory Committee as appointed by Order-in-Council is as follows:

- a) Donn E. Cline, Chairman, Department of Recreation and Parks
- b) Larry F. Duchesne, Secretary, Department of Recreation and Parks
- c) Everett R. Silver, Department of Energy and Natural Resources
- d) Joseph A. Brennan, Department of Energy and Natural Resources
- e) Leslie J. Cooke, Department of Energy and Natural Resources
- f) Dr. William J. Byrne, Department of Culture
- g) Christian E. Anderson, Grande Prairie
- h) Charles Archibald, Rosalind
- i) Thomas Gilchrist, Milk River
- j) Ken Kultgen, Foremost
- k) Dr. Douglas Miller, Lethbridge
- l) Peter Orlecki, Two Hills

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

July 26, 1984 - Calgary

The committee met to discuss the work plan of the committee for 1984/85. The committee reviewed and discussed briefs presented to them March 21, 1984 in Lethbridge, concerning a candidate ecological reserve at Milk River Canyon. As a result of the Lethbridge meeting and subsequent feedback it was concluded that the committee would only concentrate on the Milk River Canyon site this year. In this regard, a group was established, called the Milk River Management Task Group. Membership of the Task Group was set up as follows:

Chairman:	Tom Gilchrist	Wilderness Areas & Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee Member
Member:	Warren Brower	Local Rancher
	Terry Butterwick	Fish and Game Association
	Julian Guay	Professor, University of Lethbridge
	Ken Kultgen	Wilderness Areas & Ecological Reserves, Advisory Committee Member
	Don Laguna	Councillor, County of Forty Mile
	Doug Miller	Wilderness Areas & Ecological Reserves, Advisory Committee Member
	Len Mitzel	Fish and Game Association

	Leonard Piotrowski	Local Rancher
	Ray Sloan	Instructor, Mount Royal College
	Cliff Wallis	Alberta Wilderness Association
Ex-officio:	A. Hyland	M.L.A. - Cypress Constituency
Resource Person:	Norbert Kondla	Department of Energy & Natural Resources

The purpose of the Milk River Management Task Group was to make recommendations on the management and operation of a possible Ecological Reserve in the Milk River Canyon.

December 4, 1984 - Edmonton

Peter Orlecki from Two Hills was introduced and welcomed as a newly appointed member of the committee. The committee met to discuss areas which are to be held under protective reservation for consideration as future ecological reserves. The committee was also briefed on the progress of the Milk River Management Task Force.

January 11, 1985 - Calgary

The Advisory Committee met to review and discuss the report of the Milk River Management Task Force. It was also decided that the committee would extend an invitation to interested provincial associations to attend a meeting of the Advisory Committee in April. The purpose of the meeting would be to receive input as well as update associations on the progress of the program.

February 14, 1985 - Calgary

The committee met to discuss its recommendations with regard to its 1984/85 annual report and the work plan for 1985/86. It also heard clarification from the Task Group on some points in their earlier report.

Recommendations

Based on public input received and the Milk River Management Task Force report, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Minister choose one of the following options regarding the Milk River Candidate Ecological Reserve.

1. Establish the entire area under consideration as a Natural Area.
2. Establish Kennedy Coulee as an Ecological Reserve with the remainder of the area becoming a Natural Area.
3. Establish the entire area as a Natural Area with the long term intent of the Kennedy Coulee area becoming an Ecological Reserve subject to legislative changes being made to the Ecological Reserves section of the Act.

It is the general opinion of the committee that these options could each be used to protect the resources of the Milk River Canyon, although some are less direct than others. Regardless of the option chosen the Advisory Committee also recommends:

1. That the Minister consider the following suggestions made in the General Notes of the Milk River Management Plan Task Force report,
 - the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act be revised to make the Act less restrictive.
 - use of bison for grassland management be considered.
 - an inventory of sensitive and special features be undertaken.
 - an integrated resource plan for the general Milk River area be encouraged.
2. That management recommendations in the Milk River Management Plan Task Force report in conjunction with local participation be used in developing a detailed management plan for the Milk River Area.